

Manager's report

2009/2010 was my sixth year in the team leader's role but the first when I didn't have an active role on the committee. It was a year of significant

difference with EW sponsorship changing, and the growth of Waka Ama at EW, both in numbers and in becoming more competitive. Another major change was the growth in the number of non-EW paddlers. The committee responded well to these changes and provided good leadership.

The manager's role became so much easier, and more of a support role as there were experienced people in the key positions. There was strong leadership from Jimmy in his 4th consecutive year as coach, Ric in his 2nd year as assistant coach and from President/boat captain Virginia.

Trainings ran smoothly even though our paddlers seem to enjoy waiting for someone to tell them "it's time to lift the boat and get it to the water", and then you have to repeat the process at the completion of training. It was unfortunate that attendance numbers were light until Xmas, but from then on, we had a full boat most trainings. The new lightweight dragon boat was a pleasure to paddle after using the heavy Waikato and South Waikato boats in previous years.



A significant number of the team were paddling wakas in Rarotonga when the Hamilton Super 12 was held, so we were pleased to hear that the team came 3rd in our absence - well done! We attended regattas in Wellington, the Auckland Regionals at Lake Pupuke and the Nationals at Ashburton and performed at a very high level, winning silver in the Corporate Championship in both Wellington and Auckland.

The team members had a positive and professional approach to the regattas and were extremely competitive in both an individual and team capacity. There was a willingness to train hard in both the dragon

boat and wakas that I hadn't seen in previous years. There was a sense of comradeship and common purpose that will make the next season an even more successful one for the team.

It has been a pleasure being part of the team of 2009/10.

Allan Halse



You should never have eaten my liquorice little girl.



Captions on this photo have been removed to protect the innocent